

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
April 11 - 18, 2012

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1. [NATO Conference Focuses on Post-2014 Afghanistan](#) (04-18-2012)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

BRUSSELS, April 18, 2012 – NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen today emphasized support to Afghanistan beyond 2014 in remarks opening a conference of the alliance's defense and foreign ministers here.

Rasmussen noted the NATO summit in Chicago is a month away. "We have important work to do today and tomorrow to help set the stage," he said.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force has been engaged in Afghanistan since 2001, and Rasmussen said the alliance will continue to support that nation beyond 2014.

Meetings of NATO defense and foreign ministers today and tomorrow will shape the decisions on Afghanistan that the alliance's heads of state and government will make in Chicago, Rasmussen said, including completing the transition to Afghan security lead by the end of 2014 and what form NATO's contributions in Afghanistan will take after that transfer.

Rasmussen noted Afghan security forces defeated coordinated enemy attacks April 15 in and around Afghanistan's capital of Kabul.

“This shows that the Afghan security forces can deal with dangers and difficulties, and they are getting stronger every day,” the secretary general said.

He said his clear message to Afghanistan’s enemies is that they can’t just wait NATO out. “As we gradually draw down,” he added, “a still stronger Afghan security force is taking charge to protect the Afghan people against brutality and inhumanity.”

NATO will maintain a training mission and financial support to Afghan security forces beyond 2014, Rasmussen said. “We must make sure we maintain the gains made with so much investment in lives and resources,” he added.

Even in tough financial times, the secretary general said, supporting the Afghan forces is “a good deal in financial and political terms.”

NATO remains committed to its strategy and its long-term partnership with Afghanistan, Rasmussen said.

“This is our message to the people of Afghanistan, to the enemies of Afghanistan, and to the neighbors of Afghanistan,” he said, “because it is in the interest of our own security.”

Before a morning meeting of defense ministers this morning, Rasmussen said their discussion would center on alliance “smart defense” efforts to acquire capabilities jointly that the alliance will need to counter future threats. Smart defense, he said, “means setting the right priorities. We must specialize in what we do best and focus resources on what we need most. And we must work together to deliver capabilities that many nations cannot afford on their own.”

At the Chicago summit next month, Rasmussen said, NATO will demonstrate its commitment “to continue to invest political, military and economic capital in a transatlantic alliance that is fully fit to deal with the security challenges of today and tomorrow.”

In a news conference following the morning session, he announced ministers have prepared an interim missile defense plan for Europe, with details to be announced in Chicago.

NATO defense ministers also discussed a “connected forces” initiative to be finalized at the Chicago summit, he added. This agreement will strengthen member nations’ coordinated education, training and technology efforts, the secretary general said.

Financial support to Afghan forces after 2014 is expected to cost \$4 billion per year, Rasmussen added, though details of NATO nations’ contributions to that total have not been finalized.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton are both here for the NATO meetings, and are scheduled to hold a joint news conference later today.

Biographies:

[Anders Fogh Rasmussen](#)

Related Sites:

[NATO](#)

[NATO International Security Assistance Force](#)

Related Articles:

[Panetta: NATO at 'Pivotal Point' in Afghan Mission](#)
[U.N. Security Council on Afghanistan](#)

2. U.N. Security Council Presidential Statement on North Korea (04-16-2012)

The following is issued in the United States' capacity as president of the Security Council. This month Ambassador Susan Rice holds the president's chair of the U.N. Security Council.

UN Security Council Presidential Statement on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Security Council strongly condemns the 13 April 2012 (local time) launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Security Council underscores that this satellite launch, as well as any launch that uses ballistic missile technology, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle, is a serious violation of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009).

The Security Council deplores that such a launch has caused grave security concerns in the region.

The Security Council demands that the DPRK not proceed with any further launches using ballistic missile technology and comply with resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009) by suspending all activities related to its ballistic missile program and in this context re-establish its preexisting commitments to a moratorium on missile launches.

The Security Council agrees to adjust the measures imposed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1718 (2006), as modified by resolution 1874 (2009). The Security Council directs the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) to undertake the following tasks and to report to the Security Council within fifteen days:

- a) Designate additional entities and items;
- b) Update the information contained on the Committee's list of individuals, entities, and items (S/2009/205 and INFCIRC/254/Rev.9/Part.1), and update on an annual basis thereafter;
- c) Update the Committee's annual work plan.

The Security Council further agrees that, if the Committee has not acted pursuant to the paragraph above within fifteen days, then the Security Council will complete action to adjust these measures within an additional five days.

The Security Council demands that the DPRK immediately comply fully with its obligations under Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), including that it: abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; immediately cease all related activities; and not conduct any further launches that use ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests or any further provocation.

The Security Council calls upon all Member States to implement fully their obligations pursuant to resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009).

The Security Council expresses its determination to take action accordingly in the event of a further DPRK launch or nuclear test.

[Ambassador Rice on U.N. Statement on North Korea Launch](#)
[Facts on U.N. Security Council Statement on North Korea Launch](#)
[State Dept. on Anniversary of Missile Technology Control Regime](#)

3. Dempsey: Nation Faces Security Paradox (04-13-2012)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2012 – The world today is less violent but also more dangerous than at any other time in human history, the nation's senior military officer told a Harvard University audience yesterday.

That "counterintuitive combination" of peace and potential conflict is "the essence of what I like to call the security paradox," Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the audience attending a John F. Kennedy School of Government forum in Cambridge, Mass.

"Although geopolitical trends are ushering in greater levels of peace and stability worldwide, destructive technologies are available to a wider and more disparate pool of adversaries," Dempsey said.

In the past, the general noted, it took a nation's power to create a national security threat: industrial progress fueled the world wars, and the threat of mutually assured destruction between superpowers kept the Cold War from getting too hot.

Today, the same rise in global trade and information technology that has increased cooperation and cut violence between nations also has put 21st century weapons in reach of smaller groups, the chairman said.

"More people have the ability to harm us or deny us the ability to act than at any point in my life - and that's the security paradox," he added.

While in the past only the United States could drop a bomb down a chimney, "now dozens of middleweight militaries around the world have that precision munitions capability," he said.

Potential adversaries now can buy "off-the-shelf" more than 90 percent of the components needed to build an electronic warfare system, Dempsey said. That creates a risk to "the very systems that provide our battlefield edge: our computer networks, our sensors, and our precision navigation ability," he said.

Cyber attack is another evolving threat that doesn't require a large military to launch it, Dempsey said.

"With the right computer virus, a single person can disrupt life for ... an entire city, and potentially even our entire nation," he added.

"The message is that the margin of error is growing smaller," the chairman warned.

The U.S. military must counter these new and elusive threats even as its budget shrinks, Dempsey noted.

“We have to make hard choices about where to put our resources — and where to pull them back,” he said.

The Defense Department strategy balances cost, force structure, mission and risk, Dempsey said. The strategy aims for a force with fewer service members, greater agility and more powerful technology, he added.

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps need to meld service-unique strengths to build capabilities “that don’t exist unless they’re combined,” the general said.

The force will be regionally postured but globally networked, “scaled and scoped to demand,” he said.

“Finally, it will be a force that provides a degree of security in balance with what the nation needs and what the nation can afford,” Dempsey added.

The security paradox presents a difficult challenge, Dempsey said. “But challenges are nothing new to this nation,” he said. “We have adapted and re-invented ourselves many times throughout our history.”

The newly commissioned USS New York is emblematic of the nation, and of 21st century U.S. military strategy, the chairman said.

The New York is an amphibious ship that carries a Marine expeditionary unit, which combines ground, air and logistics capabilities, and usually has about 2,200 Marines and sailors assigned.

The bow of the just-commissioned ship, Dempsey said, “was forged from seven tons of steel pulled from the rubble of the twin towers. ... This steel — tempered to be stronger than it was before — will carry experienced, war-tested Marines half way around the world and back.”

The New York and its crew will patrol the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Gulf, “keeping faith with our partners and allies in port calls and conducting exercises or actual real-world operations as needed,” he said.

The ship is a testament to the nation’s resilience, the chairman said.

“When I think of the challenges we face,” Dempsey added, “I think of the USS New York. She and her crew are part of the agile and technologically advanced force we are building. They are ready to prevail in any conflict. They are the best this country has to offer.”

Biographies:

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

Related Sites:

[Photo Essay: Dempsey Visits Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.](#)

4. U.S., International Partners Condemn North Korea's Missile Launch (04-13-2012)

By MacKenzie C. Babb
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States and its international partners are condemning North Korea's attempted missile launch as a threat to regional security and a violation of international law.

"While this action is not surprising given North Korea's pattern of aggressive behavior, any missile activity by North Korea is of concern to the international community," White House press secretary Jay Carney said in an April 12 statement.

Even though the launch failed, Carney said the United States "remains vigilant in the face of North Korean provocations and is fully committed to the security of our allies in the region."

North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command acknowledged the North Korean launch of a Taepo Dong-2 missile April 12. A joint news release said U.S. systems tracked the first missile of an intended multistage southerly launch over the Yellow Sea, with the missile eventually falling into the sea about 165 kilometers west of Seoul, South Korea.

"The remaining stages were assessed to have failed and no debris fell on land," the statement said.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations [Susan Rice said](#) the U.N. Security Council held consultations following the attempted launch to address the situation.

"Members of the Security Council deplored this launch, which is in violation of Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874," Rice said April 13 from New York. She added that the council agreed to "continue consultations on an appropriate response, in accordance with its responsibilities, given the urgency of the matter."

The Group of Eight (G8) advanced economies foreign ministers released a joint statement also condemning the launch, which it said "undermines regional peace and stability."

The ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States called on North Korea to "abstain from further launches using ballistic missile technology or other actions which aggravate the situation on the Korean Peninsula." They also said they are ready to consider, with others, taking measures to respond to all activities by North Korea that violate international rules and obligations.

Carney said the attempted launch only has further isolated North Korea.

"North Korea's long-standing development of missiles and pursuit of nuclear weapons have not brought it security, and never will," Carney said. "North Korea will only show strength and find security by abiding by international law, living up to its international obligations, and by working to feed its citizens, to educate its children, and to win the trust of its neighbors."

The spokesman said President Obama is prepared to engage constructively with North Korea, so long as the country lives up to its commitments, adheres to its international obligations and deals peacefully with its neighbors.

5. Clinton: Group of Eight Nations Discuss Syria, Iran, North Korea (04-12-2012)

By MacKenzie C. Babb
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says foreign ministers representing the Group of Eight (G8) advanced economies have discussed a “range of issues that are of pressing concern” for the international community during talks in Washington.

“We’ve covered a lot of ground over the past two days,” Clinton said during a State Department press conference at the conclusion of the ministerial meeting April 12. “All of these discussions underscore a simple truth: Today’s complex challenges require the continued leadership of the G8 countries working together.”

The secretary said the talks with her counterparts from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia covered their “shared interests and responsibilities around the globe.”

Clinton said the leaders discussed the evolving situation in Syria, and welcomed special envoy Kofi Annan’s report that the violence there has abated.

“If it holds, a cease-fire is an important step, but it represents just one element of the special envoy’s plan,” Clinton said. For the halt in violence to be meaningful, it must lead to “a credible political process and a peaceful, inclusive and democratic transition.”

She said the United States and its G8 partners will continue to monitor the situation there, and remain prepared to support a United Nations monitoring mission to Syria.

Clinton said the foreign ministers spoke also about concerns that North Korea continues to prepare to launch a ballistic missile in violation of both United Nations Security Council resolutions and the country’s own national commitments.

“We urge the North Korean leadership to honor its agreements and refrain from pursuing a cycle of provocation,” the secretary said. She added that the global community has a shared interest in fostering security and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and said “the best way to achieve that is for North Korea to live up to its word.”

The group also looked ahead to the P5+1 talks in Istanbul, where France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China and the United States will re-open talks with Iran about its nuclear program.

“We hope these talks result in an environment that is conducive to a sustained process that delivers results,” Clinton said, adding that the meeting offers a chance for Iran to credibly address the concerns of the international community.

She said the group discussed deepening cooperation to prevent conflicts, deal with food security challenges and advance democracy around the world. In particular, the partners agreed on the importance of continuing to support countries in the Middle East and North Africa “working to transition to democracy, to improve governance, to create jobs, to expand trade and investment.”

They reviewed talks a day earlier between the so-called Quartet — the European Union, represented by High Representative Catherine Ashton, the United Nations, represented by Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon, Russia, represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and the United States, represented by Clinton. The group additionally spoke about the nomination of Jim Yong Kim to the World Bank presidency.

Clinton said the far-reaching talks laid the groundwork for a “successful meeting” when the G8 heads of state gather at Camp David in May.

[Clinton at G8 Plenary Session](#) (04-11-2012)

[Syria Cease-Fire a “Fragile First Step,” Clinton Says](#) (04-12-2012)

6. U.S. Seeks Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (04-11-2012)

Washington — The global architecture “is in need of some renovation” as emerging nations, such as those in the Asia-Pacific region, become the “key drivers of global politics and economics,” Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told future leaders of the U.S. Navy.

Speaking April 10 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, [Clinton said](#) “the shape of the global economy, the advance of democracy and human rights, and our hopes for a 21st century less bloody than the 20th century all hinge to a large degree on what happens in the Asia Pacific.” She said the United States seeks cooperation, not conflict, with the region’s leading power, China.

Through mature and effective global institutions, disputes can be settled peacefully and nations can be mobilized into common action and “work toward rules and norms that help manage relations between peoples, markets, and nations, and establish security arrangements that provide stability and build trust,” she said.

“We are not seeking new enemies. Today’s China is not the Soviet Union. We are not on the brink of a new Cold War in Asia,” Clinton said.

“Geopolitics today cannot afford to be a zero-sum game. A thriving China is good for America and a thriving America is good for China, so long as we both thrive in a way that contributes to the regional and global good,” she said, adding that “a peaceful, prosperous Asia Pacific” requires “an effective U.S.-China relationship.”

In less than 35 years, the United States and China have seen their trading relations and people-to-people connections expand, transforming from “two nations with hardly any ties to speak of to being thoroughly, inescapably interdependent,” she said.

In this new era, seeing the rise of China and others on the global stage, “a just, open, and sustainable international order is still required to promote global peace and prosperity,” Clinton said, and although “the geometry of global power may have changed, American leadership is as essential as ever.”

Clinton said the challenge of North Korea’s threat to launch a new long-range missile, after having given signals that it is willing to engage with the international community over its nuclear weapons program, “will give credence to the view that North Korean leaders see improved relations with the outside world as a threat to the existence of their system,” she said, warning that “recent history strongly suggests that additional provocations may follow. “

But leaders in Pyongyang need to realize that “true security will only come from living up to commitments and obligations first and foremost to their own people,” she said.

By contrast, recent developments in Burma offer “a meaningful opportunity for economic and political progress” as an example for the Asia-Pacific region, she said.

“We have to continue to have the patience and persistence to nurture the flickers of progress that I saw when I visited Burma, the first visit by a secretary of state in 50 years,” she said, celebrating the fact that in recent elections Nobel Peace Prize laureate and democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was voted into parliament.

The rules and institutions that were designed for an earlier age in global politics “may not be suited for today,” she said, and the United States and other countries now need to “work together to adapt and update them and even to create new institutions where necessary.”

But at the same time, “there are principles that are universal and that must be defended: fundamental freedoms and human dignity; an open, free, transparent, and fair economic system; the peaceful resolution of disputes; and respect for the territorial integrity of states,” she said.

“These are norms that benefit everyone and that help all people and nations live and trade in peace,” and they have “helped fuel, not foil, the rise of China and other emerging powers such as India and Indonesia,” she said, because they and other countries “have benefited from the security it provides, the markets it opens and the trust it fosters. And as a consequence, they have a real stake in the success of that system.”

The historical record of the United States “may not be perfect,” Clinton said, but it still shows that it has consistently tried to advance not only the interests of Americans, but also “the greater good” for the world, she said.

“It’s 2012, and a strong America is welcoming new powers into an international system designed to prevent global conflict,” Clinton said.

7. State Dept. on History of Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (04-09-2012)

Fact Sheet: History of the CTBT

Key Point: The effort to end nuclear explosive testing has spanned five decades with efforts culminating in the [Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#) (CTBT), which was opened for signature in 1996.

The first nuclear explosive test was conducted by the United States on July 16, 1945. The Soviet Union followed with its first nuclear test on August 29, 1949. By the mid-1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union were both conducting high-yield thermonuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere. The radioactive fallout from those tests drew criticism from around the globe. The international community’s concern about the effects on health and the environment continued to grow. In 1954, [Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru proposed](#) a ban on all nuclear testing. The increasing public concern over explosive tests led to the negotiation and entry into force of the 1963 [Limited Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#) (LTBT). This Treaty banned nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water, but underground tests were still permitted.

When the was being negotiated in 1968, a comprehensive test ban was discussed, but the international community failed to reach agreement on the issue. Advocates for a ban on explosive testing persisted.

In 1974, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests, also known as the [Threshold Test Ban Treaty](#) (TTBT). It established a nuclear "threshold" by prohibiting the United States and the Soviet Union from conducting tests that would produce a yield exceeding 150 kilotons (equivalent to 150,000 tons of TNT). The mutual restraint imposed by the Treaty reduced the explosive force of new nuclear warheads and bombs, which could otherwise be tested for weapons systems. The TTBT was not intended as a substitute for a comprehensive test ban. Article I of the Treaty states that, "the Parties shall continue their negotiations with a view toward achieving a solution to the problem of the cessation of all underground nuclear weapon tests."

In 1976, scientists from different countries formed the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) and began conducting joint research into monitoring technologies and data analysis methods for the verification of a comprehensive test ban.

Almost two decades later, the Cold War ended, bringing with it increased possibilities for progress on disarmament and self-imposed testing moratoriums from the United States and the former Soviet Union. Capitalizing on this momentum, the United Nations' disarmament body, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, began formal negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1994. Capitalizing on the GSE's research, the CD was able to reach consensus on the verification regime. Other parts of the negotiations proved more difficult, but members of the CD were able to find common ground and move forward. Australia submitted the Treaty to the U.N. General Assembly, where it was adopted on September 10, 1996 and opened for signature on September 24, 1996.

Since then, 183 nations have signed the Treaty, and 156 have ratified it. Of the 44 nations whose ratifications are specifically required by the Treaty for it to enter into force, 41 have signed and 36 have ratified.

[State Dept. on Status Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#)

Key Point: As of December 6, 183 nations have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and 156 have ratified it. Of the 44 States whose deposit of instruments of ratification are specifically required by the CTBT for its entry into force, 41 have signed the Treaty and 36 have ratified it.

For more information on the history of the CTBT, click [here](#).
